(b) if so, the reasons therefor including the source and reasons for initiating the above project;

(c) whether the above project was pushed ignoring the issues raised in Rajaraman Committee appointed to look into the feasibility of establishing the Media Lab Asia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any inquiry would be initiated on the formation and conduct of the project Media Lab Asia and the collaborative programme with the MIT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The collaboration between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA and Media Lab Asia was not continued beyond March 31,2003. A re-structured Media Lab Asia programme has since been approved by the Government.

(b) Collaboration with US based MIT was not continued because it was felt, based on an internal review, that project based collaborations with different institutions having relevant experience would better suite the objectives of the programme.

The project was initiated in view of the recommendation of a technical committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Rajaraman for setting up a world class R&D lab. Thereafter, a Joint Task Force comprising representatives of the Indian Government and MIT, USA recommended immediate setting up of Media Lab Asia.

(c) and (e) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of software for transliterating from Persian to Gurmukhi

1191. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he deserves to be complimented for producing software; and

(b) what is the progress in respect of software for transliterating from Gurmukhi to Persian script and the *vice-versa* since until then, the job remains half done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No change in the existing statutes is required for the production of software.

(b) The software for transliteration from Gurmukhi to Shahmukhi (Persian Script) is ready. In view of the technical problems encountered, it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for the development of the reverse transliteration software from Shahmukhi (Persian Script) to Gurmukhi.

Computers in post offices in Rajasthan

1192. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of post offices where computers have not yet been provided for computerized registrations in Rajasthan;

(b) the reason therefor; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) There are 1450 Departmental Post Offices (Head Offices and Sub Offices) in Rajasthan Postal Circle. Out of 1450 Post Offices 1394 Post Offices have not yet been provided with computers for computerised registrations in Rajasthan. The names of Post Offices where computers have not yet been provided for computerised registrations in Rajasthan are indicated in the Annexure. *[see* appendix 199, Annexure No. 6]

(b) There are over 26000 departmental Post Offices in the country. Considering the limited resources that were available in the past, it was not possible to computerize all Post Offices, Selected Post Offices were taken up for computerization in all States.